

Message Text

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FOL KHARTOUM 2625 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA ASMARA

LONDON MOGADISCIO NAIROBI PARIS USCINCEUR VAHIHINGEN

VLADVOSTOK NOV. 24; REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2625

VLADIVOSTOK FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR ET SU

SUBJ: SUDANESE CONCERN ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI REPORTED SEPERATELY,
HE CALLED ME BACK FROM CAR AND SHOWED ME NEWS JUST HANDED HIM
FROM ADDIS RE DIRG EXECUTION 62 POLITICAL PRISONERS,
INCLUDING GENERAL AMAN, EX-PRIMMINS AKLILU AND MEKONNEN,
RAS HAZERAT KASA AND RAS MISFIN, TWO DIRG OFFICERS AND
HIM'S GRANDSON. NIMEIRI LOOKED SHAKEN AND SAID HE NOW EVEN MORE
CONCERNED AT POSSIBLE FUTURE EVOLUTION ETHIOPIAN EVENTS.

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2. PRIOR FOREGOING, NIMEIR AND I HAD REVIEWED THEN CURRENT STATUS ETHIOPIAN EVENTS. NIMEIRI SAID HE THOUGHT DIRG HAD RECENTLY BEEN SENDING UP TRIAL BALLOONS TO TEST POPULARITY MAJ. MENGHISTU BUT THAT THESE HAD BROUGHT LITTLE POPULAR RESPONSE. HE UNCLEAR WHO MIGHT EMERGE AS DIRG LEADER BUT DOUBTED DIRG COULD INDUCE ANY OUTSIDE FIGURE OF STATURE TO ASSUME ROLE, SINCE CLEARLY HE WOULD BECOME A CREATURE OF DIRG.

3. NIMEIRI ALSO GLOOMY RE ETHIOPIAN/ERITREAN SITUATION. WHILE AMAN HAD SEEMED INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, MENGHISTU AND OTHER DIRG TYPES WERE HARDLINERS ON ISSUE. HE FEARED DIRG WOULD NOW SEEK IMPOSE ITS VIEWS ON ELF AND PLF BY FORCE, AND SPOKE KNOWLEDGEABLY OF ADDITIONAL BRIGADES LIKELY BE ORDERED TO SCENE. NIMEIRI SAID HE HAD COUNSELLED DIRG DELEGATION HERE LATE LAST MONTH TO NEGOTIATE WITH FLEXIBILITY, AS HE HAD DONE ON SUDAN'S SOUTHERNPROBLEM. GOI COULD READILY BE IN TOUCH WITH BOTH ERITREAN FACTIONS (I.E., ELF AND PLF), COULD BRING THEM TOGETHER AND COULD HELP MEDIATE WITH ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, ADDIS AUTHOR TIES WERE NOT TAKING ANY MEASURES WHICH WOULD MAKE SUCH GOS ROLE FEASIBLE. FOR EXAMPLE, NIMEIRI HAD COUNSELLED DIRG ISSUE GENERAL AMNESTY AND BE WILLING MEET WITH ERITREANS ANYWHERE FOR TALKS. DIRG UNWILLING DO SO.

4. COMMNT. NIMINI HAR BEEN CONCERNED AT ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS PRIOR LAST-MINUTE NEWS RE EXECUTIONS WHICH HE OBVIOUSLY FELT WOULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS. BREWER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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